

Claims

We claim:

1. A method of manufacturing a belt comprising the steps of:
 - 5 laying up a first elastomeric layer of a belt build on a mandrel;
 - laying up tensile cords on the first elastomeric layer;
 - laying up a second elastomeric layer on the first elastomeric layer;
 - 10 laying up a non-woven region on the second elastomeric layer;
 - placing the belt build in a mold;
 - evacuating the air from inside the mold and holding;
 - increasing the steam pressure on a mold outside shell;
 - 15 increasing the steam pressure inside the mold;
 - curing the belt build;
 - decreasing the steam pressure inside the mold to atmospheric pressure;
 - decreasing the steam pressure outside the mold to
 - 20 atmospheric pressure;
 - quenching the mandrel in a fluid;
 - separating the belt build from the mandrel; and
 - cutting the belt build to predetermined belt widths.
- 25 2. The method as in claim 1, comprising the step of evacuating the air from inside the mold and holding for approximately 1 to 5 minutes.
- 30 3. The method as in claim 2, comprising the step of increasing the steam pressure on the mold outside shell to a range of approximately 175 to 235 psig.

4. The method as in claim 3, comprising the step of increasing the steam pressure inside the mold to a range of approximately 85 to 210 psig after approximately 2 to 10 minutes.

5 5. The method as in claim 4, comprising the step of curing the belt build for approximately 10 to 20 minutes.

6. The method as in claim 5, comprising the step of venting gases through the non-woven region.

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7. A method of manufacturing a belt comprising the steps of:
laying up a first elastomeric layer of a belt build on a mandrel;

laying up tensile cords on the first elastomeric layer;

15 laying up a second elastomeric layer on the first elastomeric layer;

laying up a non-woven region on the second elastomeric layer;

curing the belt build;

20 evacuating gases generated during curing through the non-woven region; and

cutting the belt build to predetermined belt widths.